Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) Two.

(*b*) (*i*) Mother Superior, House of Providence, Ernakulam.

(*ii*) President, the Waifs and Strays Relief Association, Ernakulam.

COCHIN-KANAYANNUR TREASURY—ACCOMMODATION FOR

16. Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):*

(1) (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been drawn to the inadequate housing conditions of the treasury at Cochin-Kanayannur;

(*b*) will Government be pleased to inform the length and breadth of the room in which the Samprathi and other clerks are housed now;

(*ii*) the number of hands employed in that room;

(*iii*) the number of tables placed in the room for the treasury work;

(*iv*) the number of chairs and almirahs in the room;

(*c*) will Government be pleased to state whether the room has been inspected by any officer of the Health Department to see whether the present working conditions there would affect the health and well-being of the hands employed there;

(2) whether there is sufficient ventilation to allow breeze to play in the room and whether there is any punkah provided to cool and ventilate the room in the hot weather?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):*

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) 22'—6" x 20'—6".

(*ii*) 2 Samprathies, 9 Accountants and 3 peons.

(*iii*) 13.

(*iv*) 12 chairs and 3 almirahs.

(*c*) No. Public Offices are not generally inspected by Officers of the Public Health Department.

(2) There is no free ventilation for want of windows on the eastern side. There are no punkahs.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know what is the usual space allowed for one individual officer?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* There is no such rule so far as I know.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* I am putting the question to the Hon'ble Member for Public Works—What is the space allotted to individuals in public offices?

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* It depends upon the size of the officers. *(Laughter).*

Mr. President: I suggest that the answer to that question is: a certain amount of research is required; and I think the Hon'ble Member may well give notice of that question. *(Laughter).*

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What is the amount of space given in the Jail for each individual. There must be a rule for that.

Mr. President: I am afraid even the most learned Government officer cannot carry every regulation in his head.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Do the Government say whether the space is adequate or inadequate? The answer to the question is "yes".

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Inadequate.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Has any arrangement been made to give relief.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Additional accommodation is attempted to be given.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* May I know how long has this office been working in these surroundings?

Mr. A Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* This office has been working for a long time. But the number of officers has been increased only very recently. The number till about three months back was not this. Since then the number has been increased by 4 or 5 and the accommodation has become inadequate.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know whether the treasury was not housed in the premises now occupied by the Central Bank?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* At that time the shroffing was also part of treasury work.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* How many were there in the shroffing department?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I want notice.

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Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: When you found that there is no free ventilation why did you not instal some electric punkhas?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: Electric Pankhas are not available now.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: What is the remedy that the Government propose to give them for enough ventilation?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: Extend the eastern portion and make it a little more ventilated. That is the only possible course.

ARTICLES OF FOOD STUFFS SUPPLIED FROM RETAIL SHOPS AND FAIR PRICE SHOPS

17. **Mr. A. B. Salem** *(Mattancheri)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the articles of food stuffs supplied by Government for sale in the retail shops;

(*b*) the articles of food stuffs supplied by Government for sale in the Fair Price shops;

(*c*) if any differentiation is made between the two shops regarding the supply of articles, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*:

(*a*) Rice, paddy, wheat, bajra, jowar, barley, maize, ragi, gramdhall, gramflour, toordhall, peas, blackgram, moong, moongdhall, maida-flour, atta, wheat-flour, sooji (rava), maizemeal, jaggery, kersone oil, horsegram, tapioca and potato.

(*b*) All the commodities specified in answer to (*a*) and also sugar.

(*c*) Sugar is not sold in private retail shops. The quota of sugar alloted to us is very limited. The distribution has therefore to be closely supervised, so as not to leave any chance of this commodity being misused. It is, therefore not sold to the retail shops.

Note.—Sugar is sold through Fair Price Shops and in some of the places where there are no such shops through the officers of the department.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Are not all these articles rationed?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Not all.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Is not sugar one of the rationed articles?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Yes.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Are not the rationed articles to be sold only according to the rations fixed through fair price shops or retail shops?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Yes.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Then what is the difficulty to place sugar also for sale in the retail shops? The shop keepers cannot issue more than the rationed quantity.

Mr. President: They can.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: That is in the black market. Then their licences can be cancelled by us.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Sugar is not a commodity which is consumed by all. So if it is issued to the retail shops, by collusion we find that large quantities will go to the black market. The man who does not want it sells it in the black market.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: They can only issue according to the ration.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Those who do not want sugar collude with the shop keepers and sell it.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: That can be done even in your fair price shops.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: We have got greater control over our shops.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: What is the kind of control exercised on the retail shops that sell other rationed articles?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Disciplinary control.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: What I submit is.....

Mr. President: This is not the time for submitting anything.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: My question is why not sell sugar in the retail shops when more important articles as rice are sold there?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Rice is a commodity required by all and there will be only very few who do not purchase rice and if any one does not get rice, he will complain immediately and it will be easy to check vagaries. In the case of sugar a comparatively large number of people may collude with the shop keepers and sell it in black market.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: I understand the fear. But are the Government aware that it will be more convenient for people to go to a ration shop and purchase sugar also. It is the convenience of the public that has to be taken into consideration. Collusion can take place

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